

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
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17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)
20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)
23. (canceled)
24. (canceled)
25. (currently amended) A bi-directional access point comprising:
 - an interface section comprising a bridging connection for a bi-directional communication path, and an interface output connection;
 - an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and
 - an access connection point coupled to the transformer point tap output,
 - wherein the impedance boosting section comprises a transformer with a winding tap, and further wherein the transformer winding comprises N_1 turns ~~about~~ above the winding tap and N_2 turns below the winding tap, where $N_1 \leq N_2$.
26. (original) A bi-directional access point according to claim 25, wherein N_1/N_2 is selected from a range of 2 through 6 commensurate with a preselected tap value ranging between -10 dB and -30dB.
27. (original) A bi-directional access point according to claim 26, wherein N_1/N_2 is 6 and the preselected tap value is -30 dB.
28. (original) A bi-directional access point according to claim 26, wherein N_1/N_2 is 3 and the preselected tap value is -20dB.
29. (original) A bi-directional access point comprising:
 - an interface section comprising a bridging connection for a bi-directional communication path, and an interface output connection;

an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and
an access connection point coupled to the transformer point tap output,
wherein the interface section is a resistive interface section.

30. (currently amended) A bi-directional access point according to claim 29, wherein the ~~interface section is a~~ resistive interface section comprising at least first and second resistors in series.

31. (original) A method for monitoring a bi-directional communication path, the method comprising:

establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path through an interface section to an interface output connection;

providing an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and

providing an access connection point to the access point tap output.

wherein providing an impedance boosting section comprises providing a transformer winding with a winding tap, and further wherein providing a transformer winding comprises providing a transformer winding with $N1$ turns above the winding tap and $N2$ turns below the winding tap, where $N1 < N2$.

32. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein providing a transformer winding comprises providing a transformer winding in which $N1/N2$ is selected from a range of 2 through 6 commensurate with a preselected tap value ranging between -10 dB and -30 dB.

33. (original) A method according to claim 32, wherein $N1/N2$ is 3 and the preselected tap value is -20 dB.

34. (original) A method according to claim 32, wherein $N1/N2$ is 6 and the preselected tap

value is -30 dB.

35. (original) A method for monitoring a bi-directional communication path, the method comprising:

establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path through an interface section to an interface output connection;
providing an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and
providing an access connection point to the access point tap output,
wherein establishing a bridging connection comprises establishing the bridging connection through a resistive interface section.

36. (currently amended) A bi-directional access point comprising:

interface means for establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path to an interface output connection;
impedance boosting means coupled to the interface output connection for adding an impedance boost in series with the interface means;
a transformer tap output coupled to the impedance boosting means;
a tuning means for establishing at least one of a predetermined return loss and tap value for ~~the~~ an access connection point; and
~~an~~ the access connection point coupled to the transformer tap output,
wherein the impedance boosting means includes a transformer winding with a winding tap.

37. (original) A bi-directional access point comprising:

interface means for establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path to an interface output connection;

impedance boosting means coupled to the interface output connection for adding
an impedance boost in series with the interface means;

a transformer tap output coupled to the impedance boosting means; and

an access connection point coupled to the transformer tap output,

wherein the impedance boost is commensurate with a preselected tap value
ranging between -10 dB and -30dB.

38. (original) A bi-directional access point according to claim 37, wherein the impedance
boost is commensurate with a tap value of -30 dB.

39. (original) A bi-directional access point according to claim 22, wherein the impedance
boost is commensurate with a tap value of -20dB.